

October 26, 2006

Dear Sir:

I would like to voice my opposition for one company to own more than one major television station in the smaller markets. The situation which has happened in Abilene, Texas is a good example of the worst type of situation which can happen.

Nexstar owns KTAB the CBS affiliate and provides services to NBC affiliate KRBC which is owned by Mission Broadcasting. Basically Nextstar is wanting to own both stations and have the FCC change its rules so they can do so. They have given misleading information on TV which was described in the Abilene Reporter News dated October 14, 2006 in a front page story titled Fate of local TV stations on the line?

Basically it appears that Next Star is calling all the shots and while legally the two stations may be separate, I think this is in the slightest way possible to slide by the law.

This is what has happened since KRBC was sold and KTAB was sold as well, I understand.

1. The Owners of KTAB vacated the KRBC television station which was a modern facility, closed the building and moved their operations into the KRBC station.
2. After this happened, when you called KRBC you received a KTAB answering machine. This may have now changed.
3. Almost immediately the new "owners" of KRBC demanded that Cox Cable Company, our only cable service in Abilene, start paying them for broadcasting the local news and NBC programming. They refused to do this. For more than a year we had no NBC programming on cable. Probably 95% of the people in Abilene have cable hookup. Therefore, there was an attempt to blackmail the cable company into paying fees to the new owners of KRBC. They refused and started issuing free rabbit ears so that we could watch KRBC-NBC from our homes if

we had cable TV. We understood that the owners of KRBC owned several stations in markets such as Abilene and this was being used as a test case to try to force television stations in markets across the US to pay them for broadcasting rights from local stations. The satellite dish companies moves into Abilene aggressively and started selling their products. The bottom line was that Cox Cable sold their Abilene company and made some deal with the new owners which was not disclosed to the public. The new owners or KTAB KRBC had total disregard for the interests of the public and we could not even get local severe weather report information unless we turned to KTAB or another station KTXS which is CBS. There was a lot of acrimony on the television for a year over this situation.

2. We learned that the new owners really operated from a one room office in Ohio. They were not a company that was serious about providing good broadcasting services to Abilene Only using Abilene as an investment platform for profit.

3. They eliminated jobs, combined news staff and therefore instead of having two points of view on local news covering more subjects, both stations now have the same information which if theses is a lot of news, some cannot be reported due to the limited staff and cameras available to cover events. This does not meet the needs of the community.

4. I started to notice a decline in network broadcasting on KRBC. First I noticed that at 9 AM on Sunday they changed programing to infomercials. While I am at work during the day, I have noticed weekdays in mid to late morning they have again substituted infomercials for network programming. I am concerned that the company is simply turning KRBC into a money making station devoted to paying infomercials.

5. As of late they have hired two young girls for the morning newscasts as well as the weather forecast on KRBC. These girls are terrible. Never have I seen such poor qualities in television staff personalities. Neither of them have good voice projection and I cannot clearly hear what they say. On the other hand, they have

expanded the KTAB newscast in the afternoon. My suspicion is that they deliberately hired two poor broadcasters with the idea that people would switch from listening to KRBC to KTAB thereby increasing the public listening to KTAB and generating more advertising revenue and at the same time decreasing the public listeners to KRBC. Later they can use this as an excuse to demonstrate what a poor station KRBC is while building their investment in KTAB.

I suggest that the article in the Abilene Reporter News is a very clear discussion of our situation in Abilene and I suggest that you obtain a copy of this newspaper article dated October 14, 2006. I would be glad to send it to you if you are interested and provide me with a mailing address.

KRBC was the oldest radio and TV station in Abilene and has always had very strong public support. I was shocked to discover that the new owner really has no interest in Abilene except as a profit center. I am convinced that if the FCC allows stations to own more than one station locally that it could spell the end for good service as demonstrated in this unsatisfactory situation.

Sincerely yours,
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